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DE RUEHAC #0639 2151458  
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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6026  
RHMFIUU/DTRA ALEX WASHDC//OSAE//  
INFO RUEHAC/USMILGP ASUNCION PA  
RUCNMER/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM J5 MIAMI FL  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOUTHCOM J3 MIAMI FL  
RHMFIUU/HQ USARSO G3 FT SAM HOUSTON TX  
RUMIAAE/COMSOCOSOUTH SIMS HOMESTEAD ARB FL

UNCLAS ASUNCION 000639

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PASS TO PM/WRA, SA/LW

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: DOD PGOV PARM PA

SUBJECT: Physical Security and Stockpile Management Assessment and  
Destruction of Unserviceable Stocks and Small Arms and Light  
Weapons

REF: A) ASUNCION 563

¶1. This cable contains an action request for PR/WRA and SA/LW and is  
a retransmission of reftel. See para. 5.

¶2. An explosion at the Paraguayan Military's main ordinance depot in  
January 2007 destroyed one of the storage sheds for commercial  
explosives and initiating devices. After the explosion, the  
Military Forces Commander, GEN Soto, asked the Chief, US Office of  
Defense Cooperation (ODC) for technical support to help their  
military's War Materiel Directorate (DIMABEL) improve the storage  
and handling of explosives and ammunition and destruction if needed.

¶3. Initial assessments were completed with in-country DOD  
personnel, and subsequent support was provided by other USG  
agencies. These assessments identified several deficiencies in  
handling and storage procedures that warranted further technical  
assistance as well as identifying significant amounts of ammunition  
and explosives requiring destruction. Additionally, DIMABEL is  
responsible for storing their military's old SALW as well as  
military type weapons seized by police forces. Many of these  
weapons are stored with inadequate safeguards or accountability and  
are waiting to be destroyed.

¶4. Mr. Jon Erickson and LTC Bill Johnson, Defense Threat Reduction  
Agency Conventional Arms Branch (DTRA-OSAE), conducted an assessment  
June 18-22 of the main DIMABEL depot. During their outbrief with  
GEN Soto they explained the deficiencies that they found (including  
the fact that approximately 75 per cent of the military stockpile is  
unserviceable and needs destruction) and received his approval to  
provide follow-up training and assistance with destruction of  
outdated or damaged explosives and ammunition.

¶5. Action request: On June 28, the Chief, ODC at the US Embassy  
received a formal request from GEN Soto for additional support to  
DIMABEL in all areas related to structure, organization, storage,  
handling and destruction of all war materiel. Based on this request  
US Embassy Paraguay is requesting that DTRA-OSAE conduct their  
Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) Level I and II  
seminars as soon as possible. Additionally, we request funds from  
the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) to help support  
our country team efforts to improve stockpile and SA/LW storage and  
handling as well as the destruction of all unserviceable items.  
CASON